

REMARKS

This is to acknowledge the allowance, as set forth in the above-identified Office Action, of all of the claims of the application, with the exception of Claims 29-31.

In this regard Claim 29 is the only independent claim of the three rejected claims, and it reads as follows:

29. A component configured to be incorporated in and removed from an appliance that is connected to a user network, the component comprising a memory storing information for identifying the component, wherein the information stored in the memory is represented in images on a label to be printed and used for returning the component.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts correctly that the cited Haines patent discloses a toner cartridge, removable from a printer connected to a network, and that the cartridge comprises an RFID memory tag storing information for identifying the component. Also, it is asserted that the cited Clothier publication states that RFID technology is similar to that of barcodes, wherefore the claimed invention of Claim 29 is alleged to be obvious on the grounds that one skilled in the art would realize from Clothier that a barcode label could be used instead of an RDID tag, leading to substantial financial gain without compromising the desired result.

Assuming arguendo that these assertions are correct, such a combination of references does not, however, disclose the requirement of Claim 29 which states “wherein the information stored in the memory is represented in images on a label to be printed and used for returning the component”. This important requirement of Claim 29 is referred to at paragraphs 100-101 of the Specification which describes that a “label is generated in a traditional manner including some security means. . . representing the identification

ID_Component of the component. . . The data representing the label to be used for return of the component is then sent either to the local server or directly to the printer”.

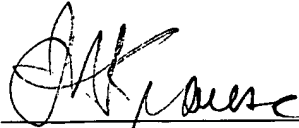
Accordingly, while in the Office Action it is acknowledged that the RFID device of Haines does not satisfy the Claim 29 requirement for a memory having information stored therein which “is represented in images on a label to be printed and used for returning the component”, Applicant stresses that this requirement would not be suggested merely by substituting a barcode for an RFID device. That is, such a mere substitution of a barcode would not suggest the provision of memory information which is represented in images on a label to be printed, nor can the barcode be considered to be the memory storing the claimed information for identification of the component, because again there is no disclosure of the information stored in the barcode being represented in images on a label to be printed and used for returning the component.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that any attempt to expand the disclosures of the Haines and Clothier references to cover the invention of Claim 29 would require the improper use of hindsight, using knowledge gleaned only from the present application.

For these reasons Claim 29, and its dependent Claims 30 and 31 are believed to be allowable, wherefore Applicant respectfully solicits the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Krause', is written over a horizontal line.

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